

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CLIFFORD MISSION AND RELATED SUBJECTS

REF: ATHENS 1673

1. THE CLIFFORD MISSION CONTINUES TO BE A LEADING STORY IN THE GREEK MEDIA WHICH TODAY (FEBRUARY 23) REPORTS ON MR. CLIFFORD'S MEETINGS YESTERDAY IN ANKARA AND HIS IMMINENT ARRIVAL IN NICOSIA WHERE, SOME NEWSPAPERS SAY, HE WILL HAVE "CRUCIAL MEETINGS." THE BASIC MESSAGE IN MUCH OF THE MEDIA IS THAT BEYOND THE POLITE PUBLIC COMMENTS BY BOTH SIDES IN ANKARA CLIFFORD ENCOUNTERED STRONG RESISTANCE BY THE TURKS TO ANY ACCOMMODATION ON CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN. ALONG THESE LINES SEVERAL ANTI-CLIFFORD REPORTS FROM THE TURKISH PRESS HAVE BEEN REPRINTED, ESPECIALLY THE CHARGE "HE SPEAKS LIKE A GREEK*" ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PREMIER DEMIREL TOLD THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE THAT THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS
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EXPECTED IN JUNE, THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED BEFORE THE ELECTIONS AND THAT IF REELECTED HE, DEMIREL, WOULD SEEK A RAPID SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS.

2. PRESS REPORTING ALSO STATES THAT AT CLIFFORD'S MEETING WITH THE TURKISH CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL SANCAR, THE LATTER SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POINTING OUT THAT TURKEY

WAS A KEY NATION OF THE ALLIANCE WITH THE LONGEST BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO HURT NOT ONLY TURKEY BUT THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO. ADDITIONALLY, ECEVIT WAS REPORTED AS SAYING TO CLIFFORD THAT CYPRUS SHOULD NOT BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE COMING TURKISH ELECTION CAMPAIGN. MR. CLIFFORD'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE NEED FOR NATO ALLIES TO HAVE ARMS AGREEMENTS AND THAT TURKEY WAS A KEY MEMBER OF NATO LIKEWISE RECEIVED ATTENTION. THE COMMUNIST PRESS ESPECIALLY SEIZED UPON THESE COMMENTS TO EMPHASIZE THAT A "NATO SOLUTION" TO CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN WAS BEING COOKED UP BY THE U.S. AND TURKEY.

3. ON RELATED ITEMS, PRO-GOVERNMENT (YET ALSO INDEPENDENT) KATHIMERINI REPORTS IN A FRONT-PAGE STORY FROM PARIS THAT MANY OBSERVERS IN THE FRENCH CAPITAL BELIEVE THE RECENT (WASHINGTON POST) REVELATION CONCERNING ALLEGED CIA PAYMENTS TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS WAS AN ATTEMPT BY "AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES" TO ASSASSINATE HIM "MORALLY AND POLITICALLY." LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA REPORTED ALONG THE SAME LINES FROM WASHINGTON.

4. THE PRESS REPORTED TODAY THAT A GOOD SOURCE HAD DENIED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD PREPARED A PLAN TO SOLVE THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. THE "SOURCE" WAS REFERRING TO A STORY WHICH APPEARED YESTERDAY IN LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA, BASED ON AN ARTICLE IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, ABOUT A PLAN UNDER WHICH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WOULD BE DIVIDED SO THAT TURKEY WOULD SUPPOSEDLY GAIN CERTAIN ZONES EXTENDING BETWEEN THE LARGER GREEK ISLANDS (SAMOS, CHIOS, LESVOS, AND LIMMOS) TO THE MID-AEGEAN IN EXCHANGE FOR CORRESPONDING GREEK ZONES EXTENDING TO THE TURKISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISLANDS. THE GREEK "SOURCE" SUGGESTED THAT ANY SUCH PLAN MUST HAVE TURKISH, NOT GREEK, SPONSORSHIP.

5. AN INTERVIEW BY GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, APPEARING IN THE POLISH WEEKLY POLITYKA, WAS ALSO PICKED UP BY THE PRESS. IN THE INTERVIEW, APPARENTLY GRANTED BEFORE MR. CLIFFORD'S VISIT TO ATHENS, AMONG OTHER REMARKS MAVROS WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "IT WOULD BE ABSURD TO EXPECT--AS SOME PEOPLE DO--THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO SOLVE THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM OR THE GREEK-TURKISH DEADLOCK OVER THE AEGEAN SEA." ONLY THE FIRM STAND OF THE GREEK NATION CAN BRING ABOUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION, HE CONCLUDED.

6. AN EDITORIAL IN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD SHOW ITS DETERMINATION NOT TO TOLERATE "FURTHER BLACKMAIL" BY TURKEY AND CEASE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY. DEMIREL'S CLAIM THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS WAS A PLOY, CLAIMED THE EDITORIAL, AND SHOULD BE REJECTED. THE ONLY OTHER EDITORIAL WAS FOUND

IN COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS, WITH ITS USUAL CHARGES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION WAS TO BRING ABOUT GREECE'S RETURN TO THENATO FOLD UNDER A NEW "TRUMAN DOCTRINE", AND TO ESTABLISH CYPRUS AS AN "UNSINKABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER."

7. SAMPLE HEADLINES FOLLOW: TO VIMA: "DEMIREL TORPEDOED THE CLIFFORD MISSION--NO 'CONCESSION' PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS--'COLD SHOWER' FOR THE AMERICANS IN ANKARA"; RIZOSPASTIS: "WASHINGTON INSISTS ON A NATO SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION--ANKARA'S INTRANSIGENCE FACILITATES ITS PLANS", AND "CLIFFORD'S STATEMENTS FOLLOWING HIS TALKS IN TURKEY--THE WESTERN COUNTRIES MUST ENTER ARMS AGREEMENTS--NECESSARY FOR NATO;" PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS: "ANKARA OPENLY TELLS CLIFFORDS: NO PROGRESS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION UNTIL THE TURKISH ELECTIONS--THEY WILL BE HELD IN JUNE--ARMS PACTS NECESSARY AMONG WESTERN POWERS STATES 'CARTER'S MAN';" PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI: "DECISIVE MEETING BETWEEN MAKARIOS AND CLIFFORD--CLIMATE OF DISCONTENT IN ANKARA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE;" COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI: "USA-TURKEY: IDENTITY OF VIEWS--DEMIREL AND THE MILITARY SEPARATE THE CYPRUS QUESTION FROM THE ARMS 'EMBARGO'--'WE HAVE THE LONGEST BORDERS WITH THE SOVIET UNION'--CARTER'S ENVOY IN NICOSIA TODAY;" OPPOSITION TA NEA: "CLIFFORD'S MISSION IN GREECE AND TURKEY FAILED--WASHINGTON EXPECTED SOMETHING, BUT..IT COULD NOT PRESS ANKARA;" LEFTISH ELEFTHEROTYPIA: "ANKARA: NO CONCESSION PRIOR TO THE JUNE ELECTIONS--DEMIREL WANTS AID SO THAT HE WILL WIN THE ELECTIONS."
KUBISCH

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